



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

HELPING PUBLIC HOSPITALS MEET DEMAND

Extra funding will be given to both The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital to help them meet the increased demand for services, Jon Stanhope, said today.

Budget 2002-03 provides an additional \$1.264 million in recurrent funding across The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital to help both public hospitals meet the growth in demand for medical and surgical inpatient services. It also provides an additional \$300,000 in recurrent funding to Calvary Public Hospital to support the continued growth in demand in the Emergency Department.

“My Government is committed to ensuring the ACT has an excellent public hospital system with appropriate services available to the people of the ACT and surrounding region.

“We promised, during the election campaign, to address the funding problems at The Canberra Hospital and to provide coordinated planning and funding for the necessary growth in health services.

“We moved to address the crisis at The Canberra Hospital by providing an injection of \$8.7 million immediately upon gaining office.

“We will continue to fulfil our pledge by funding both public hospitals to meet the demand for growth in services.

“This funding will support the continued provision of a comprehensive range of medical and surgical specialty services at both hospitals,” said Mr Stanhope.

The funding for the Emergency Department at Calvary Public Hospital will help the hospital meet a continued growth in demand.

“Calvary Public Hospital experienced a 7.5% growth in demand for emergency services in the last financial year, and we anticipate the trend will continue this year.

“The additional funds will allow Calvary Public Hospital to provide high quality Emergency Department services and to meet the needs of the growing north side population,” said Mr Stanhope.

The Chief Minister indicated that some of the growth had been in patients with primary care needs, who could be seen by a General Practitioner if affordable services were available out of business hours.

“We are working with stakeholders to explore options to provide better out of hours general practitioner coverage in the ACT. I am confident that we will find a solution that will better meet the needs of the people and ease the burden on both hospitals,” said Mr Stanhope.

Statement ends 25 June 2002

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